

NWX-HHS ACF

Moderator: Latisha Harley
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10:30 am CT

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. I'd like to inform all participants at this time the conference is now being recorded. If you have any objections please disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the call over to Latisha Harley. You may now begin.

Maxine Maloney: Hello and welcome to the Technical Assistance Pre-Application Recording for the Fiscal Year '19 Community Services Block Grant Training and Technical Assistance Program.

Regional Program - go back. Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium also known as RPIC, Human Capacity and Community Transformation Initiative for regions 1 through 10 funding announcement.

My name is Maxine Maloney. I am the Division of Community Assistance Program Operations Branch Chief with the Office of Community Services. I'm joined today by my colleague Latisha Harley.

During this teleconference we will walk you through the overview of this funding announcement which will be referred to as FOA and that provides you an over view of the Community Services Block Grant.

The role of the Office of Community Services also known as OCS as it relates to the Community Services Block Grant CSBG is to provide assistance to states and local communities working through a network of CSBG-eligible entities for the reduction of poverty, revitalization of low income communities and the empowerment of low income families and individuals to become self-sufficient.

CSBG provides states, the District of Colombia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S territories and federal and state recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations Community Action Agencies - CAAs, Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers or other organizations designated by state funds to alleviate the cause and conditions of poverty in communities.

The funds support a range of services and activities to assist any of the low income individuals including the homeless, migrants and the elderly.

This program is authorized by Section 674 B2A and 678A of the CSBG Act 42 USC 9903 B2AN 9913.

The anticipated number of awards - OCS expects to fund 11 cooperative agreements under different funding opportunity announcements. One cooperative agreement will be awarded in each ACF region.

Regional announcement numbers - The regional announcement numbers will range from HHS 2019 ACF OCS BT 1579 through HHS 2019 ACF OCS BT

1590. Again the announcement numbers will range from 1579 through 1590. There will be one cooperative agreement in each region of ACF.

Eligible applicants - as prescribed by Section 678A B2 of the CSBG Act eligible applicants are CSBG-eligible entities or state wide or locals or associations with demonstrated expertise in providing training on methods of effectively addressing the needs of low income families and communities.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive an award. Faith-based organizations are encouraged to review the ACF policy on grants, the Faith-based Organizations Act, HTTP: www.acf.hhs.gov/acf-policy-on-grant-2-faith-based-organizartions.

Individuals including sole-proprietorships are not eligible for funding.

Eligible applicants must be physically located in an ACF region. The geographical area aligned with the established ACF regions and the ACF regional map which can be found at www.acf.hhs.gov/oro/regional-offices.

For the purposes of - go back. For the purpose of this funding opportunity eligible applicants within the regions or service areas may coordinate efforts and apply as a consortium identifying a single applicant to serve as the grantee.

Anticipated project periods - the anticipated project period is three years 36 month project period within three, 12 month budget periods. Again the anticipated project period is three years - 36 month project period within three month budget periods. The overall program plan should be for the project period however, specific detail should be included for each budget period.

Budget documents should be for annual budgets three 12-month budget periods.

Now we will provide an overview of the funding opportunity announcement. Background information CSBG and RPIC. Since 2011 OCS has supported RPIC cooperative agreements to serve as regional focal points for coordination of T/TA activities related to CSBG at the national network of CSBG-eligible entity. And coordinating the efforts of faith associations and CSBG state lead agencies.

In coordination with CSBG National Partners RPICs have leveraged T/TA resources to provide significant support to state association, local CSBG-eligible entities and state CSBG lead agencies.

CSBG Information Memoranda IM123 provides additional information on the establishment of RPIC.

The activities supported through this funding opportunity announcement will build upon these partnerships to help rethink the growth capacity of individual families and communities.

RPIC's purpose. The central mission of the RPIC strategy has been to ensure that state CSBG lead agencies, state associations and local CSBG-eligible entities utilize and adhere to all aspects of the CSBG performance management framework.

The purpose of the RPIC Program is to work with the CSBG Center Of Excellency COE for Human Capacity and Community Transformation HCCT

and other key partners to strengthen an integrated T/TA system for CSBG network.

The RPICs will serve as regional focal points for T/TA to identify, highlight and support multi-year community transformation efforts rooted in the HCCT National Strategy. The RPIC's regional approach institutes collaborative efforts, innovative approaches and will promote HCCT initiatives with the CSBG network.

Coordination with other OCS funded T/TA projects. The RPIC cooperative agreement grantee will work in close collaboration with the CSBG COE throughout t this project period. Through this partnership RPICs will support communities to try to make efforts rooted in the HCCT national strategy and strengthen linkages with the state specific communities to foster long term growth of individuals, families and communities.

RPIC's major goals. This cooperative agreement will assist state CSBG lead agencies, state associations and the CSBG-eligible entities with four goals.

Maximizing and aligning HCCT, T/TA resources and coordinating regional T/TA plans.

Identify and highlight capacity building best practices for state CSBG lead agencies, state associations and CSBG-eligible entities to share and promote cross-learning throughout identified regions.

Organize implement and participate in national and regional T/TA activities designed to address the collaboration, capacity building and exemplary practice needs of the CSBG network to support the full implementation of the CSBG HCCT.

Helping state lead CSBG agencies and state and local CSBG-eligible entities implement (NXE) organizational standards in the areas such as proforma input and involvement, community engagement, community assessment, organizational leadership, board governance, strategic planning, human resource management, financial operations and oversight and data and analysis.

CSBG Human Capacity and Community Transformation HCCT National Strategy the COM RPIC will focus on unique community level approaches and innovation in building capacity and transform a community.

Core values for initiatives supported through this effort will include the following -

Dignity - we believe every individual is inherently valuable and has a potential to rise above vulnerable circumstances when they are properly supported and encouraged.

Society - we believe the role of the society is to collectively support the conditions needed to grow people beyond vulnerability to reduce their dependency on public support.

Work - we believe all who can work must work. Work with life-sustaining wages is essential to grow in capacity of individuals and families provided a pathway for economic mobility.

Responsibility - we believe each person is ultimately responsible for their future and needs to be a positive contributor to the community and a participant in their own well-being.

And impact - we believe we must measure what we seek to achieve.

The ultimate objective is to directly measure the growing capacity and resilience of individuals, families and communities on the reduction of dependency on external systems.

HCCT National Strategy continue - the CSBG HCCT initiatives will build communities by ensuring local stakeholders work together to transform the conditions and outcomes that matter to them.

HCCT initiatives will be guided by the following operating principles -

Sustainable independence - creating enabling conditions needed to support independent and resilient individuals, families and communities.

Support employment - strengthen employment opportunities for individuals and families that promote economic mobility across generations.

Individual empowerment - foster the potential of individuals to create their own future by cultivating the environment that builds financial, social and personal capacity.

Government as catalyst - leverage the role of government to drive the transformational model by calling all sectors of society to this vital work.

Community matters - support communities in the development and execution of their unique vision for growing the capacity of individuals and families in vulnerable circumstances.

Evidence based policy - collect relevant, reliable data to evaluate the progress, impacts and outcomes.

Apply the knowledge gained for the developing and strengthening of policy that supports the overarching objective.

And individual and family centric designs - design an operating system that understands addressed to the unique circumstances of the individuals and families served.

HCCT National Strategy Continue - specific projects and tasks with the proposed RPICs will include the following -

Strengthen and collaboration and coordination across systems of delivery within the CSBNG network, identify and highlight strategies and innovations in service delivery which increase human capacity and transform community reducing reliance on external support for a system with a core value and operating principles aligned above.

Engage communities and the CSBG network in developing a new model of engagement with diverse partners in service delivery.

To put states and CSBG-eligible entities in identifying strategies and best practices in building, coordination and collaboration across systems.

Leverage resources to improve outcomes and drive community level transformation.

And identify and develop frameworks to support replication and sustainability.

RPIC's key results highlight HCCT initiatives. RPICs will collaborate with state lead agencies, CSBG-eligible entities and state associations to determine eligible community level initiatives that grow individuals and families beyond deliverable circumstances and transform CSBG communities.

Criteria for HCCT initiative - the focus area should be based on community needs. The initiative will illustrate linkages that help increase human capacity and self-efficiency.

Local CSBG-eligible entities must meet 90% of the organizational standards to showcase their community transformational initiative.

A minimum of one community transformational initiative must be highlighted in each state with a total of no more than 15 initiatives within each region.

And multiple focus areas must be selected however, all should specifically address community needs. The identification of focus areas will provide RPICs and key partners such as the Center Of Excellence and Learner Community Resource Center an opportunity to plan and strategize technical assistance needs.

RPIC key results highlight HCCT Initiative Continue - the regional initiatives led by RPICs will be consistent with the CSBNG Performance Management Framework and may include services such collective impact and through generation initiatives.

Over the three years period this cooperative agreement the expectation will be for all ACF regions to participate in regional T/TA initiatives. OCS will work

with the RPICs and see how we can coordinate efforts for events in alignment with the planning - review the schedule below.

Year one, Planning - October 2019 through September 2020. Year two, Implementation - October 2020 through September 2021. Year three, Monitoring - October 2021 through September 2022.

RPIC key results, CSBG annual reporting - OCS intends for the CSBG HCCT National T/TA strategy to emphasize and support CSBG-eligible entities through the implementation of model three of the CSBG annual report OBM Control number 0970-0492 completed by CSBNG-eligible entities.

Module three of annual report focuses on community level indicators. The RPICs will leverage resources aligned with the HCCT National Strategy for local CSBG-eligible entities to identify, adapt and implement community level strategies that improve outcomes consistent with the CSBG annual report.

Annual report data provided by the local CSBG-eligible entities will serve as a resource to exchange information about existing multi-year HCCT efforts.

Additional information about the CSBG annual report is provided in the CSBG Information Memorandum 152.

RPIC's key results - CSBG organizational standards enroll next generation activities. RPIC grantees will continue to support ongoing state wide efforts to assure accountability and performance management necessary for improved community outcomes by assisting state CSBG lead agencies, state associations and local CSBG-eligible entities in meeting high performance organizational standards.

RPICs will continue providing the following performance management activities.

Assessing organizational standard needs in regional - in their region.

Helping state CSBG lead agencies and state CSBG-eligible entities implement, meet and exceed organizational standards in areas such as consumer input and involvement, community engagement, community assessment, organizational leadership or government strategic planning, human resource management, financial operations and oversight and data and analysis.

Coordinating T/TA to implement, meet and exceed organizational standards and identifying creative and innovative strategies for disseminating HCCT, develop organizational standards tools.

And encouraging a learning culture that enables - that embeds the next generation and state leads - CSBG lead agencies, state associations and CSBG-eligible entities in the region.

Allocation of funds to the RPICs. Each RPIC must meet the following requirements regarding allocation of funds -

Minimum distribution to state associations - the lead grantees for the RPIC will collaborate with state associations to support technical assistance.

The lead grantee for the RPIC consortium will be required to provide at least 40% of federal grants funds awarded through this cooperative agreement

through civil awards to other state associations in the grantee-defined geographic region.

Participating state associations will be required to provide a letter of support from the CSBG lead agency committing to completion of a joint T/TA annual plan and demonstrating membership or a letter of support from a majority of CSBG-eligible entities in the state.

Minimum allocation of performance management efforts - each RPIC will be required to demonstrate that at least 25% of the CSBG Grant Fund awarded under this cooperative agreement among the consortium of state associations will support the regional input and implementation of the CSBG performance measurement framework including organizational standards, data accountability measures, enrollment of next generation.

Required activities for the performance management can be found in IM152.

Anticipated substantial federal involvement under the cooperative agreement - in order to ensure that OCS meets its compliance in T/TA responsibilities for CSBG and continues this partnership with the CSBG network, grants awarded under this flow will be funded in the form of a cooperative agreement.

Federal involvement may include the following -

Convened, plan and coordinate meetings with the national CSBG T/TA grantees to convey OCS expectations for the project deliverables along with the HCCT National Strategy identify opportunities for connections with RPICs and allow plans to share national resources.

Convene routine (e.g.) quarterly conference calls with all RPIC grantees as conducted by the assigned program specialist to review project timelines, identify best practices and provide T/TA to achieve intended project deliverables.

Participant in joint webinars with national CSBG and T/TA partner facilitating the exchange of information that helps to identify common quality improvement issues. And participate in virtual and in person regional initiatives facilitated by RPIC to support the discussion of HCCT T/TA needs, community level activities, strategies, partnerships and best practice models for replication and suitability. This includes the support of the COE grantee to coordinate and participate in each of the regional initiatives.

The project description - the project description provides the majority of information by which an applicant is evaluated in competition with other applications for available assistance.

It should address activities which federal funds are being requested and should be consistent with the goals and objectives of the program as described in section 1 program description.

Supporting documents should be included where they can present information clearly and sufficiently.

A program applicant should sight the evaluation criteria that are relevant to specific components of their project description.

Awarding, offices, users and other information in making their funding recommendation. It is important therefore that the information be included in the application in a manner that is clear and complete.

RPIC application criteria - criteria section maximum points. Objectives and need for assistance, maximum points 10. Approach, infrastructure and procedure maximum points 10. Approach and implementation plan maximum points 20. Organizational complexity maximum points 20. Budget and budget application maximum points 20. Expected outcomes and logic model again maximum points 20.

Objective and need for assistance - in this section reviews or considers the extent to which the applicant - One, clearly describes the linkages of expected achievements through the major goals, program deliverables and supported objectives i.e. measureable steps for reaching these goals of the project. The applicant describes proposed indicators that will be used to measure the progress and effectiveness of the approach zero to five points.

Number 2, clearly describes how strength and coordination of regional efforts will enhance service delivery and activities - zero to five points.

Approach, infrastructure and procedures - in this section reviews or considers the extent to which the applicant - one, clearly describes a plan for staffing the proposed project that demonstrates the specific relevant experience and skills of any proposed project staff describing their specific qualifications and experience. How these qualifications and experience align with their core responsibilities and how the proposed staff will support the successful implementation of the proposed project - zero to five points.

Two, describe the proposed T/TA infrastructure that clearly defines the roles, responsibilities and across functions necessary for our target T/TA approach that will strengthen the state CSBG lead agencies, local CSBG eligible entities and state associations - zero to five points.

Approach and implementation plan - in this section reviews or will consider the extent to which the applicant can - one, presents a well-conceived overall approach to the project including a clear, comprehensive plan describing how the four major goals embedded in section 1 program description, RPIC purpose and major goals will be achieved in an effective manner and aligned with the purpose of the RPIC program.

The implementation plan will include strategy, short and long term work plans and proposed schedules to produce project deliverables within the target project period - zero to 10 points.

Two, describe a plan to identify and work in partnership with state associations, CSBG lead agencies, local CSB-eligible entities, national partners and other key stakeholders to accomplish RPIC program goals.

In addition the plan will outline expected roles and responsibilities and how relationships will be sustained for future collaborative efforts - zero to 10 points.

Organizational capacity - in this section reviewers will consider the extent to which the applicant - one, provides strong evidence of sufficient experience and expertise in the program areas of this FOA in collaboration with partner organizations, an effective service delivery and an administration, development, implementation, management and evaluation of similar programs - zero to five points.

Two, describe for example in a resume, the level of knowledge, skills and abilities of the proposed project director and primary staff members. And document how their specific qualifications and level of expertise will support

successful implementation of the proposed project activities - zero to five points.

Three, clearly document the roles, responsibilities and time commitments of each proposed project staff position including consultants, sub-contractors and or partners.

These are well-defined and appropriate to the successful implementation of the proposed project - zero to 10 points.

Budget and budget justification - in reviewing the budget and budget justification reviewers will consider the extent to which the applicant - one, includes a budget that details the outer most expense for the project. The narrative budget justification clearly states how each item out of this will be utilized - zero to 10 points.

The budget must also reflect the minimum distribution to state associations and minimum allocation for organizational standards and performance management efforts.

Two, illustrates the cost of the project are reasonable, applicable and program related and are commemorated with the type and ranges of activities and services to be conducted and the expected goals and objectives.

Applicants must include a brief summary in the justification describing how expenses will count towards the minimum distribution and minimum allocation requirement - zero to 10 points.

Expected outcomes and logic models - in this section reviewers will consider the extent to which the applicant - one, presents a well-defined logic model

that guides the proposed project. The logic model demonstrates strong linkages of the applicant expected achievements and outcomes.

The applicant discusses proposed indicators that will be used to measure the progress and effectiveness of the approach.

The logic model also addresses the purpose and goals stated in section 1 program description, RPIC purpose and major goals and RPIC grantee expectations - zero to five points.

Two, describes the intended impact of the CSBG network due to the implementation of the proposed T/TA activities along with the national T/TA strategy - zero to five points.

Expected outcomes and logic model - three. Describes how the project will establish and promote the HCCT national strategy and it will provide a clear plan for addressing the goals as stated in section 1 program description, RPIC purpose and major goals and RPIC grantee expectations.

Specifically identify at least one HCCT initiative in each state. The HCCT initiatives will be implemented by a local CSBG-eligible entity who have met at least 90% of the organizational standards.

RPIC grantee will develop a long term plan to work with key partners to replicate and sustain multi-year HCCT initiatives highlighted in each state - zero to three points.

The RPIC will coordinate a state T/TA plan developed at each lead state agency and state association. The state T/TA plan will outline short and long

term technical assistance needs, strategies and plans to leverage resources for HCCT initiatives.

The RPIC grantee will describe a strategy to ensure collaboration in the completion of state T/TA plans and how the information will be used to leverage resources - zero to three points.

The RPIC grantee will provide a proposed schedule and outline for the regional initiative they will lead during the project period - zero to two points.

The RPIC grantee will describe a strategy for detailing work to assist local CSBG-eligible entities meet and exceed organizational strategies - no I'm sorry, organizational standards. Zero to two points.

Application submission electronic delivery. The deadline for submission of electronic applications via www.grants.gov is 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on the due date.

Electronic submissions submitted at 12 o'clock am Eastern Standard Time as of the due date will be considered late and will be disqualified for competitive review and for funding under this announcement.

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically via www.grants.gov unless they receive an instruction through the process described in section 4.2 Request and Exemption of Require Electronic Application Submission.

ACF does not accommodate transmission of applications by email or fax or mail.

Instructions for electronic submission via www.grants.gov are available at www.grants.gov/web/grant/applicants/apply-for-grants.stml. Page limitation and contacts for all submission formats. We combine page number limitation for the project description for the plan and the privacy paged must not exceed 150 pages.

File 1, the project description had a suggested limitation of 75 pages and all items must be labeled, numbered and organized clearly in the table of content. The program description may include the following sections - Table of contents. Project summary abstract. Objectives and need for assistance. Expected outcomes. Approach. Project timeline and milestone. Project performance evaluation plan. Organizational capacity. Dissemination plan. Plan for oversight of federal award funds. And project budget and budget justification.

Page limitation and content will also make your format file 2. File 2 must contain all the documents required in the appendix. The appendix has a suggested limitation of 75 pages and all items must be labeled, numbered and organized clearly in the table of content.

The appendix may include the table of content, proof of legal status of eligible proof of non-profit status, logic model, protection of sensitive information - excuse me. Protection of sensitive and or confidential information, the party agreement and letters of support.

This concludes our Pre-Application Teleconference recording for the fiscal year 2019 Community Service Block Grant Plan and Technical Assistance Program, Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium RPIC, Human Capacity and Community Transformation Initiative for regions one through ten funding opportunity announcement.

As a reminder please refer questions or comments to the help desk at 855 792 6551 or email at ocsgrant@acf.hhs.gov. Thank you and have a great day.

END